

Mid-East Prophecy Update – January 22nd, 2012

- Every week, since back in 2006, we have set aside a few minutes on Sunday mornings so as to devote some time to studying Bible prophecy.
- The reason that we do this is because the Bible predicts certain specific events that will take place in the last days before the Lord returns.
- We believe that what's happening in the world today is a fulfillment of those Bible Prophecies, and that the rapture could happen at any time.

- We look primarily at events in the Middle East, specifically related to Israel because, as it's been said; "Israel is God's prophetic clock."

- For today's update, I sense the Holy Spirit directing me to address something that is as uncomfortable to talk about, as it is difficult to hear.
- Here it is; the unavoidable decline, and inevitable demise of the United States of America as we know it, may have God's fingerprints all over it.
- Before you tune me out, please hear me out. It seems to me that God is loosening our tight grip on our beloved America, and this world as well.

- Whenever I tackle the topic of the United States and her absence from the pages of Bible prophecy, I deem it necessary to preface it in this way.
- While I wasn't born in this country, I have an unspeakable love and appreciation for this country by virtue of how good we really still have it here.
- Had my parents not immigrated here, it is very likely that I would not even be here, let alone be alive or even worse yet be a born again believer.

- Sadly, this once great nation has all but forsaken God, and were it not for the preserving salt, and remaining light of the church it would be done.
- I'm of the belief personally, that we are still enjoying the blessing of God here in the U.S. but there is coming a point when it will come to an end.
- This is why I believe that God is loosening our grip on this world, and the United States with it. He's readying us and steadying us for the end.

1 John 2:15-18 NIV Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. (16) For everything in the world—the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does—comes not from the Father but from the world. (17) The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever. (18) Dear children, this is the last hour; and as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come. This is how we know it is the last hour.

- Not only is this how we will know it's the last hour, but it's also how we know that the world and everything in it is in its last hour, passing away.
- However, before the world can pass away, the Anti-Christ must control the world in a new way, and by the way, the United States is in the way.
- Let me explain, as long as the United States is a super power then it would stand to reason that the Anti-Christ would not yet come to power.

- Once the U.S. is no longer a factor in the global equation, then the world can finally unite together economically, religiously, and governmentally.
- I would submit to you that this is exactly what's taking place right before our very eyes, and it's happening so fast, its momentum is unstoppable.
- This didn't happen over night, it's been in the works for many years now, but it has just now come on the radar because of its speed, and size.

On June 4th, 2009, Barack Obama was in Cairo Egypt, of all places, where he delivered an astonishing speech in which he said; "...We have the power to make the world we seek, but only if we have the courage to make a new beginning, keeping in mind what has been written. The Holy Koran tells us: "O mankind! We have created you male and a female; and we have made you into nations and tribes so that you may know one another." The Talmud tells us: "The whole of the Torah is for the purpose of promoting peace." The Holy Bible tells us: "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God." The people of the world can live together in peace. We know that is God's vision. Now, that must be our work here on Earth. Thank you. And may God's peace be upon you."

- If you really think about it, this was just two and a half years ago, and look at how much has happened since, not just here, but in Egypt as well.
- Bible prophecy ultimately finding its fulfillment in, during or at the end of the seven-year tribulation is perfectly according to schedule even now.
- It's already started, and the wheels are already in motion. One needs look no further than what we see happening in and to the United States.

Mark Hitchcock in his book; "The Late Great United States," said it best when he writes; "The future of America that we can deduce from Scripture is exactly what we see beginning to materialize before our eyes in today's headlines. America is encountering serious problems at home and abroad. We're oppressed by a sense of some impending crisis. When the trumpet sounds and all the believers in the United States vanish, America's final days will be like so many pages dangling from a December calendar. Like the great powers before it, the United States will collapse under the weight of its own sin, self-indulgence, and excess. In this light, here are seven conclusions ... up to this point.

1. America is not mentioned in the Bible.
2. America is Israel's main defender.
3. It appears that America must remain strong until the end times to continue its defense of Israel as the Jewish state tries to stay afloat in a sea of enemies.
4. The scriptural silence concerning America in the end times (after the Rapture) indicates that America will fall from its position of world prominence.
5. World power in the end times is centered in the reunited Roman Empire (Europe).
6. European prominence can only be explained in light of U.S. decline.
7. The United States will suffer its decline and its fall at the Rapture of the church, probably in combination with a series of other harsh setbacks.

Mark Hitchcock, "The Late Great United States" p. 123

- If this causes you to fear, it may indicate you're not ready for the rapture, conversely, if this causes you excitement, it means you are ready.
- Even if it gets significantly worse here in the US before the rapture, please know that no matter what, the Lord will always take care of His bride.
- It's been said that; "when we don't know what our future holds, we can know Who holds our future," especially during these perilous times.